

Today my interest is to get you as council to look at the petty spending. That does not mean there's not a lot of overspending on education, the fire dept, recreation, as in the community center, open space and the downtown .

Let's take a look at the small stuff that adds up. One of my concerns these past years is town vehicles and their usage. I kinda thought that you might have taken a look at that when fuel prices skyrocketed but that's not so, just the opposite, there's more personal use, as employees don't want to use their own fuel. We even use fire apparatus as personal transportation. It has been difficult to track how much it costs us taxpayers for these vehicle as the costs are not clear in the budget. I can only find fuel expenditures, the rest is scattered. I have tried to research what it's costing the taxpayer for the personally assigned vehicles in town but have been unsuccessful, so far, you as council should get the answers, You should be interested.

I have also recently been looking over the credit card statements and departmental expense reports, these are very interesting.

I found that we spent 500 dollars at wal-mart recently, was told it was for gift cards for an awards program, this program was an attendance incentive program for employees. Good attendance gets a gift card. Once again for all those who are public employees let me remind you of how the most businesses operate. When you have a job your first requirement for that job is coming to work and on time, your reward is your paycheck, when you do not come to work, or on time your reward is standing in the unemployment line. Public employees are not school children that need special rewards to do what they are supposed to be doing.

I see it this way the taxes on my truck, my wife's car and one other persons vehicle in this room went to this program. Waste.

I also found that we supply pizza, coffee, donuts, etc for the fire department on a regular basis.

I found many expenses for Big Y that are questionable, it's difficult to find out exactly what they were for, but some are in excess of 400 dollars.

In our personal budgets when we add up the small stuff, that daily coffee, dinner out, lunch at Wendy's, extra trips in our vehicles, etc they add up to big expenses. Lets take a hard look at the towns small stuff

Mike Sikaski
4/12/10

Mansfield, Connecticut Public Hearing April 12, 2010
Public comment by David Freudmann, 22 Eastwood Rd.,
 Storrs, CT 06268, 860-429-0763
Topic: Budget, for 2010/2011 (7-1-10 to 6-30-11) and beyond

At budget time it behooves us to take a step back and reflect beyond the one-year time frame and contemplate where the present course is leading to by mid-decade. Consider the following five points.

1. The Five Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is outlined on page 177 of the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for 2010/2011. (Please see Note 1) Cumulative Total Financing for that period's final four years, from July 2011 through June 2015, total \$17.9 million, (note 2), of which only \$4.1 million in Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP), state and federal grants have been identified. That leaves \$13.8 million to somehow be financed for many necessary expenses such as siding and roof shingles for the Senior Center and repairs to the library. Add to that \$13.8 million the \$1.1 million needed via bonding for 2010/11 (note 3) plus the \$1.5 million in current principal outstanding (note 4), and we see that a \$16 million overhang looms in the not-too-distant future.
2. The Four Schools Renovation Project will begin to be realized in mid-decade. The financing needs will be daunting and, it must be pointed out, are not included in the Five Year Capital Improvements Program mentioned above.
3. I don't think the Storrs Center project's parking garage #1 will lose money, I know it will. I regret that you have accepted without doubt the fatuous Parking Study presented by Walker Parking on March 23, 2009. (note 5) You apparently believe the study's prediction of a five-year cumulative Net Operating Income, (i.e. a profit - Total Gross Revenues minus Total Operating Expenses), of \$906,430. (note 6)

In 1999, a consultant predicted that the then-planned Community Center would break even by its fifth year. (note 7) Alas, the reality differs from the prediction. I refer you to the section titled "Operating Transfers to Other Funds" on page 161 of the Proposed Budget. Its Expenditure Budget indicates a subsidy of \$340,760 for the Community Center, and the center has had to be subsidized since it was opened in 2003. (note 8) Nowadays, consultants assure us that a parking garage will be profitable. When a credentialed consultant speaks, Mansfield listens. History does repeat itself. So in mid-decade, by which time garage #1 will have been built, there will be a new and unhappy line item in the "Operating Transfers to Other Funds" section of future budgets. Prepare to see \$500,000 annual subsidies for that garage for as far as the eye can see.

4. I support the Four Corners Water and Sewer Project and regret that the problem was not corrected ten or twenty years ago. But the fruits of this necessary investment will not be realized for five or more years following the project's completion. There will be large expenses, and they too will hit in mid-decade.

5. The governor has advised that Connecticut's towns and cities can expect deep and protracted reductions in state disbursements. Those Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Pequot/Mohegan ("casino") Funds that Mansfield has grown so dependent on have been significantly cut already. They are more likely to be cut further rather than to be increased to previous levels. Both the state and federal governments are deeply in debt. Wealth-creating private sector businesses like United Technologies are leaving Connecticut, not coming in. Therefore, from now through mid-decade and beyond, it is doubtful that there will be much more in the way of outside grants to fund the Capital and Nonrecurring Reserve (CNR) Fund.

The effects of five factors: (1) Burgeoning capital improvements needs, (2) The four schools renovation requirements, (3) The Storrs Center project's parking garage money pit, (4) The necessary but up-front costly Four Corners project, and (5) Diminishing largesse from Washington and Hartford, all point to an ominous perfect storm. I see a convergence of all five factors in mid-decade and predict a fiscal crisis the likes of which Mansfield has never experienced. There will be a reckoning, and it is coming soon and it won't be pretty.

As you wrap up work on next year's budget, try to answer the following question: What are you doing to avert a mid-decade fiscal calamity?



David Freudmann

Notes:

1. Town Manager's Proposed Budget for 2010/2011 (TMPB) submitted 3-22-10. Details of 5-yr CIP are on pp. 178-180.
2. 4-year period, cumulative, Total Financing \$17,876,700, minus LOCIP and St.& Fed. Grants \$4,062,040 = \$13,814,660 .
3. \$1,093,650 TMPB, pg. 168
4. \$1,520,000. TMPB, pp. 197, 203
5. Parking Workshop of 3/23/09, presented by parking consultant Andy Hill of Walker Parking. In packet of Town Council meeting of 4/13/09, pp. 249-268.

6. Page 260 of document referenced in note 5.
Net Operating Income: \$25,490 (year 1) + 90,930 + 156,090 +
280,930 + 352,990 (year 5) = \$906,430 .
7. Article titled "Public comment session is next step for community center", by Harold C. Shayer, *Willimantic Chronicle*, 12/28/99.
8. TMPB, pg. 161. Line item 58227
In recent years: \$245,920 in 07/08, \$334,660 in both 08/09 and 09/10. (Also see TMPB for 2009/10, pg. 165)

Public comment session is next step for community center

By HAROLD C. SHAYER
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — Town officials are hoping to get a clearer sense of public opinion next month when they hold a public hearing on the \$6.5 million community/recreation center project approved in the November election.

Billed by the town council as mostly an opportunity to listen to residents, the public hearing will be held at the town office building on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Last month, residents voted 1,410 to 1,253 to approve the center, which will be funded by \$4 million from the capital projects fund and a balance of \$2.5 million in bonds.

Although plans for the center call for an indoor swimming pool, a multi-purpose gymnasium, an indoor walking/jogging track and a multi-purpose room, among other features, council members have said they would rather let specifics of the project be decided by residents and the council which was elected last month.

The 157-vote winning margin — described by some council members as slim and others as substantial — left some council members wondering how much public support existed for the project.

Many residents leaving the polls said a lack of specific information about the project was the reason they voted against it and other residents said they were concerned about the amount of revenue the center would generate in order to eventually support itself.

When scheduling the public hearing earlier this month, members of the council said they wanted to get public input before beginning any design process for the center.

Even with the first public hearing being held in January, council members said it would still take six months to a year to start the project.

"We have thrown a lot of information at residents," said council chairman Betsy Paterson. "I think (the public hearing) is a time when people can come in, ask questions and maybe alleviate their fears."

Parks and Recreation director Curt Vincente said he views the public hearing as a "listening event" which will help town officials decide what is to be ultimately included in the center. After the hearing, Vincente said it will be up to the council to decide whether to form a community center building committee or rely on the advisory committee of the parks and recreation commission to work with designers on construction plans.

Vincente said that, so far, he has received a lot of questions and comments from residents regarding the center's fee schedule, which will be determined by the council at a later stage of the project.

"People have an idea of what the center could be, but their greatest concerns (regarding fees) is what they will actually be getting for their money," said Vincente. According to the estimates, daily admission costs for residents to the center would be \$5 for adults ages 18-61; \$3 for youth ages 3-17; \$4 for seniors over 62 and free to children under 3.

Daily admission costs for non-residents are estimated to be \$6 for adults; \$4 for youth; \$5 for seniors and \$1 for children 3 and under. Daily guest passes would be \$4 for adults, \$2 for youth, \$3 for seniors and free for children under 3.

According to Vincente's estimates, revenue generated from the center would be \$874,000 in its first year with total expenditures for the center's first year estimated to be \$981,720, or \$106,920 more than revenues.

Total revenues in the center's fifth year — estimated at \$1,103,350 — are estimated to be the same as revenues, resulting in a zero net operating loss.

Revenue includes program fees, vendors, advertising income, rentals and all admission costs. Expenditures includes salaries, insurance and various supply and operating costs.

Vincente noted that a separate projection of revenue developed by University of Connecticut's Center for Research and Analysis indicates revenues to be nearly twice as much.

William H. Chronicle, Dec 28, 88

*Harry H. Birkenruth
81 Ball Hill Road
Storrs, CT 06268*

April 12, 2010

Statement for 4/12/10 Town Council Meeting

My wife and I, forty-three year residents of our town, strongly support the spending and commitments in the proposed budget for our Downtown Project.

For the foreseeable future, there are at least two broad trends that we can reasonably project:

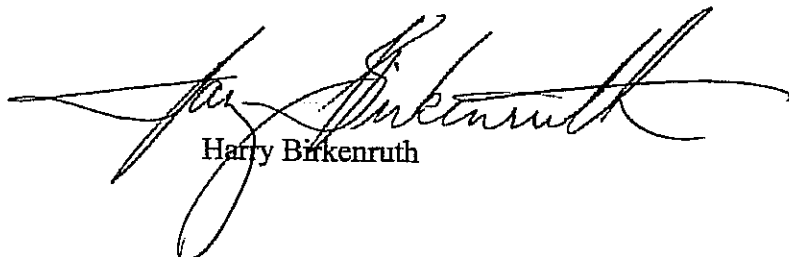
First, economic pressures will continue to be severe, impacting both the economic well-being of our town residents and our Connecticut state and municipal finances.

Second, the need for job growth will focus more and more attention on the need for a better educated and skilled workforce. This could, and should, lead to growth of our UConn campus community.

The major economic hope Mansfield has for dealing constructively with these trends is development of our Downtown.

A more vibrant Downtown would lead to a broadened, more self-sustaining tax base which would help us become somewhat less dependent on State support. The Downtown would also enhance the attraction for students and faculty of our major local economic driver, the University. In addition, a new Downtown would help us bring in retail and other small enterprises which will create some local employment opportunities ... and, for the current residents of our town, a vibrant downtown should increase our property values and, most important, properly planned and managed, it should make Mansfield an even more attractive place to live and raise our families.

Nothing good in life comes without some up-front investment. Happily, our required up-front investment is manageable. The funds included in our budget for the downtown project deserve our strong support.



Harry Birkenruth

Howard A Raphaelson
119 Timber Drive
Storrs, CT 06268

April 12, 2010

Mansfield Town Council

Following are some statements that I believe are facts, and the conclusions I draw from them

1. Most Mansfield residents chose to live here.

Mansfield has had steady growth over the years I have lived here (46) and more. Thus most residents came here deliberately from somewhere else. Those who made this choice knew that homes cost more, and thus taxes are higher even though the tax rate is similar to that in surrounding towns. Mansfield is well known for having excellent schools, good services, a fine library, a Community Center, etc. It is certainly reasonable to accept that this costs a little. Clearly, most residents feel that quality is worth the cost.

2. Many or most of our residents do not feel the need to become involved in Mansfield government or budgeting. My attempts to persuade friends to attend budget meetings to make this type of comment were met with massive disinterest. It appears that many feel that they are happy with things the way they are and see no need to become involved, counting on you to protect their interests.

2. It is far more disruptive and expensive to increase and decrease programs than it is to maintain them at a constant level.

We have a great town. Please do whatever is necessary to keep it as good as it is.

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MattH*
CC: Town Employees
Date: April 12, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Budget and Finance

- *FY 20010/11 Budget* – At tonight's meeting the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Town Manager's Proposed FY 2010/11 Budget. At 6:30 PM this Thursday, April 15, 2010, the Town Council will hold a budget workshop with the Mansfield Board of Education to discuss the board's recommended budget. Interested residents are encouraged to see the Town's website for budget-related information.

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Fire Services Inquiry* – Please see item number 14 in your 3/12/10 Council packet for a response to a citizen inquiry made at the 3/22/10 Council meeting.
- *Regionalism Committee* – This coming Friday, April 16, 2010, the Council's Regionalism Committee will meet with representatives from the Town of Windham to discuss regional issues and concerns, including potential opportunities for shared services.
- *Revaluation Process* – At the 3/22/10 Council meeting, Councilmember Haddad inquired as to how our revaluation process affects various categories of housing in town. We did distribute this information at our budget session on March 25, 2010; please let me know if you have additional questions regarding this topic.

Departmental/Division News

- *Emergency Management*
 - The Emergency Management Advisory Committee met on April 8, 2010. The primary topic of conversation was the upcoming UConn Spring Weekend.
- *Human Services*
 - *Senior center coordinator* – we are presently advertising the coordinator's position in number of media, and have begun to receive applications.
 - *Social worker* – We are pleased to announce that Barbara Lavoie started work on April 5th as the new social worker for senior services. Some of you may know Barbara from her work at Juniper Hill over the past decade or from her Saturday work at our Senior Center. We are looking forward to Barbara working with us and are confident that she will do an excellent job. Welcome Barbara!
 - *Volunteer recognition program* – As a reminder, the Mansfield Senior Center Association has invited the Town Council to attend its volunteer appreciation day at the center, to be held at noon on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.
- *Library*
 - On Saturday April 17 at 10:30 AM, Sparky's Puppets will perform "How Does Your Garden Grow." In this collection of springtime tales you'll laugh at the antics of the Grasshopper and the Ant, watch Brier Rabbit sneak into the veggie garden and find out what happens when a pesky goblin tries to outsmart a farmer in Tops and Bottoms. Sparky's Puppets have performed throughout New England for over 30 years. Count on lots of humor and audience participation in this fun show for

families. This program takes the place of our usual Saturday Family Storytime and is recommended for ages 3 and up.

- o You can also join the Library staff during the Mansfield school vacation week for three afternoons of stories and crafts. On Tuesday April 20th we'll have stories and crafts about bunnies; on Wednesday April 21st we'll have stories and crafts about chicks; and on Friday April 23rd we'll have stories and crafts about lambs. The programs run from 1:30PM - 3:00 PM. All ages welcome!
- *Planning and Zoning*
 - o At its April 5th meeting, the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agency approved, effective May 1, 2010, a comprehensive update of Mansfield's Inland Wetlands Regulations. The new regulations, which are based on State Department of Environmental Protection Agency model regulations, replace all existing regulations. In general, the new regulations clarify regulatory provisions and incorporate current statutory and case law requirements. A number of existing provisions, including requirements regarding regulated activities and upland review areas, have been incorporated and additional definitions and revised provisions regarding application requirements, decision considerations and agent delegations have been added. The new regulations will be posted on Mansfield's web site and available in the Planning office.
- *Town Manager's Office*
 - o Chief Dagon and Maria Capriola were recent guest speakers for the University of Connecticut Master's of Public Administration Program. They presented on labor relations to over 30 students enrolled in a human resources course.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Probate Court Consolidation* – My fellow CEO's from Coventry, Tolland and Willington and I recommend that the new regional probate court be located in space to be made available at the Tolland Municipal Building. As you know, we have been reviewing this issue for some months and recently met with Probate Court Administrator Paul Knierim to solicit his feedback. Neither of the existing court locations (Mansfield and Tolland) appears to be adequate to comfortably host the new consolidated probate court. With respect to the Mansfield location, we did look at various options, including a move to the Department of Human Services suite or splitting the existing court into two locations inside town hall – neither of these options appears feasible. Tolland, however, has identified another location within its municipal building that would prove more than adequate to host the court, with some minor renovations. On an annual basis, we have estimated that the four towns would need to collectively contribute \$16,259 to the consolidated costs. Based upon our respective grand lists, the allocation rate would break down as follows: Tolland - 34.6%; Mansfield - 26.43%; Coventry 26.10% and Willington 12.87%. Consequently, our estimate for FY 2011/12 totals \$5,625 for Tolland, \$4,297 for Mansfield, \$4,243 for Coventry and \$2,092 for Willington. In addition, we estimate a one-time cost of \$1,250 per town to fund the renovation. Costs in subsequent years may increase slightly when we know better the costs for a combined court. Unless the Town Council has any significant concerns, I recommend that we proceed with the Tolland location. As a next step, the CEO's would draft an inter-local agreement detailing our various responsibilities to the new probate court, and seek approval from our respective legislative bodies. I would plan to present this to you some time over the next few months.
- *School Building Project* – As a reminder, tomorrow evening, 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in the Council Chambers at the Beck Municipal Building the League of Women Voters and the Mansfield Advocates for Children will sponsor a moderated forum on the Proposed New Community PreK-4 Elementary School and Mansfield Middle School Project. The session will be shown live on Channel 13 and I anticipate the discussion will prove informative for the Council and the public.

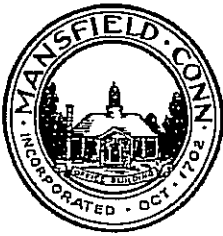
Member Organizations

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership* - The owners of the Vanilla Bean and 85 Main restaurants, Brian and Barry Jessurun, are seeking ideas for their new restaurant to be located in the first phase of Storrs Center. A survey has been developed and is featured on the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (www.mansfieldct.org/dtp.html) and master developer Storrs Center Alliance (www.storrscenter.com) websites. The survey addresses dining preferences, hours of operation, and entertainment possibilities. The new restaurant, tentatively called Dog Lane Café, is planned as a casual restaurant that will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner. Its goal is to focus on being "green" from the build out phase to the day-to-day operations. The survey will be available through May 31st.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board, April 13, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, April 13, 2010, 2:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Forum on the Four Schools Building project, April 13, 2010, 7:00 PM Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, April 14, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, April 15, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, April 19, 2010, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Energy Education Team, April 20, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, April 21, 2010, 8:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, April 21, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, April 26, 2010, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, April 26, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Meetings on the Budget:
 - Town Council Budget Workshop, April 15, 2010, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Adoption of Budget and Recommended Appropriations, April 19, 2010, 7:30 PM, Arts and Crafts Room, Mansfield Senior Center
 - Adoption of Budget and Recommended Appropriations (if necessary), April 20, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Public Information Session, April 21, 2010, 7:00 PM, Buchanan Auditorium, Mansfield Public Library
 - Annual Town Meeting, May 11, 2010, 7:00 PM, Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*



Town of Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services

To: Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager
From: David J. Dagon, Fire Chief
Date: April 12, 2010
Subject: Food purchases using Town issued credit card

By way of this memo I would like to shed light on a statement related to the fire department that was contained in a letter to the editor in the Saturday, April 9, 2010 weekend edition of the Chronicle. The letter writer stated "We have one fireman who regularly buys 12 bagels with a tub of cream cheese on the town's credit card."

Town credit cards have been issued to the fire chief, deputy fire chief, fire captains (4), the department's administrative assistant and one firefighter. The only firefighter that was approved for a credit card was authorized to purchase office supplies when there is a need at the fire stations on nights/weekends and the town hall is closed; this firefighter has never made a food related purchase on the town credit card.

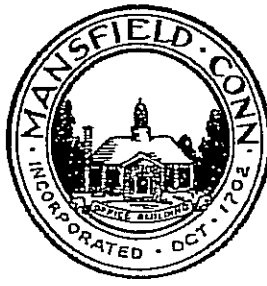
Approval for the purchase of food generally requires that it involve a work detail, certain mandatory training classes or mandatory meetings that have been prioritized, or as an incentive to promote a project or program.

A total of \$473.10 has been charged for food this fiscal year; all purchases were personally approved by me. Based on the reason for the purchase, the percentage of the \$473.10 charged to the town credit cards for food related items is as follows:

- 39% to promote a program or project, including:
 - A Fire Prevention Week kick-off meeting
 - Fire Fighter Testing (once test begins candidates cannot leave the room for any reason)
 - Spring Weekend organizational meeting with outside agencies
 - Fire Prevention Poster Contest – The schools have produced a County Winner for Mansfield in this State-wide competition every year for the last 4 years. This purchase was for pizza to reward a Mansfield Middle School class to for their participation in the Poster Contest; this purchase alone represents 25% of the total food related charges this fiscal year.

- 39% for Mandatory Training Classes or Department Meetings, including:
 - A Sunday morning EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Class)
 - Refreshments on the final day of a week-long evening/weekend meeting schedule of a 30 hour EMT-Refresher class
- 22% for Work Details, including:
 - Repairing hose that failed during required annual hose testing. The repair of hose by department members saved the town several thousand dollars.
 - Rehab of Mansfield firefighters at the scene of a structure fire in Willington.
 - Rehab for firefighters that labored to place department apparatus and equipment back in service after returning from a structure fire in Coventry.

I hope this information sheds light on the department's use of credit cards specifically for food related purchases.



Environmental Proclamation Earth Day 2010

April 22, 2010

WHEREAS the global community now faces extraordinary challenges such as environmental degradation, climate change, food and water shortages, and global health issues; and

WHEREAS all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS it is understood that the citizens of the global community must step forward and take action to create positive environmental change to combat the aforementioned global challenges; and

WHEREAS a sustainable environment can be achieved on the individual level through educational efforts, public policy, and consumer activism campaigns; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to broaden and diversify the environmental movement to achieve maximum success;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, I, Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, hereby pledge this Earth Day, April 22, 2010, to support environmental initiatives in Mansfield and to encourage others to undertake similar actions.

**A Resolution of the Governing Board
regarding a
Regional Economic Partnership**

WHEREAS, the Town of _____ would like to join the
Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership,

WHEREAS, this partnership will be applying for Federal Designation through the Economic
Development Administration to be a **Regional Economic Development District** representing the
21 towns of the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments and the Windham Region
Council of Governments, and one additional community from the Southeast Council of
Governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of _____
hereby agrees to become a member of the Northeast Connecticut Economic Partnership.

I hereby certify the preceding is a true vote of _____, at
its meeting on _____, a quorum being present.

Name:
Title:

Date

TOWN SEAL